

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 3 and 6 without prejudice or disclaimer of their underlying subject matter.

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently amended) A run-flat tire, including:

a run-flat support member constituted of a circular shell ~~and inserted into~~ within a cavity of a pneumatic tire, the circular shell having a pair of leg portions attached to a support surface thereof extended toward a periphery of the pneumatic tire and leg portions along each end of the support surface, the support surface extending in a tire circumferential direction and contacting a pair of beads; and

a pair of stages extending in a the tire circumferential direction protruding from the pair of beads, a leg portion of the pair of leg portions flanking an edge of the support surface, the leg portion contacting a bead of the pair of beads and a stage of said pair of stages,

wherein the stage contacts the bead to form a corner, the corner receiving the leg portion.

~~and formed on inner walls of a pair of right and left beads,~~

~~wherein the leg portions of the circular shell are locked into the stages.~~

2. (Currently amended) A run-flat tire, including:

a run-flat support member constituted of a circular shell and a pair of elastic rings and inserted into within a cavity of a pneumatic tire, the circular shell having a support surface extending in a tire circumferential direction and having a pair of leg portions attached to the support surface thereof extended toward a periphery of the pneumatic tire and leg portions along each end of the support surface, and the elastic rings being attached to the leg portions of the circular shell; and

a pair of stages extending in a the tire circumferential direction protruding from a pair of beads, an elastic ring of the pair of elastic rings having a first face in contact with a leg portion of the pair of leg portions and having a second face opposite the first face in contact with a stage of the pair of stages,

wherein the stage contacts a bead of the pair of beads to form a corner, the corner receiving the elastic ring.

~~and formed on inner walls of a pair of right and left beads,~~

~~wherein the elastic rings are locked into the stages.~~

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) A tire/wheel assembly, in which a pneumatic tire is fit ~~into~~ onto a wheel rim, including:

a run-flat support member constituted of a circular shell ~~and inserted into within~~ a cavity of a pneumatic tire, the circular shell having a pair of leg portions attached to a support surface thereof extended toward a periphery of the pneumatic tire and leg portions along each end of the support surface, the support surface extending in a tire circumferential direction and contacting a pair of beads; and

a pair of stages extending in a the tire circumferential direction protruding from the pair of beads, a leg portion of the pair of leg portions flanking an edge of the support surface, the leg portion contacting a bead of the pair of beads and a stage of said pair of stages,

wherein the stage contacts the bead to form a corner, the corner receiving the leg portion.

~~and formed on inner walls of a pair of right and left beads of the pneumatic tire,~~

~~wherein the leg portions of the circular shell are locked into the stages.~~

5. (Currently amended) A tire/wheel assembly, in which a pneumatic tire is fit ~~into~~ onto a wheel rim, including:

a run-flat support member constituted of a circular shell and a pair of elastic rings and inserted into within a cavity of a pneumatic tire, the circular shell having a support surface extending in a tire circumferential direction and having a pair of leg portions attached to the support surface thereof extended toward a periphery of the pneumatic tire and leg portions along each end of the support surface, and the elastic rings being attached to the leg portions of the circular shell; and

a pair of stages extending in a the tire circumferential direction protruding from a pair of beads, an elastic ring of the pair of elastic rings having a first face in contact with a leg portion of the pair of leg portions and having a second face opposite the first face in contact with a stage of the pair of stages,

wherein the stage contacts a bead of the pair of beads to form a corner, the corner receiving the elastic ring.

~~and formed on inner walls of a pair of right and left beads of the pneumatic tire,~~

~~wherein the elastic rings are locked into the stages.~~

6. (Canceled)

Please add the following new claims.

7. (New) The run-flat tire according to any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein the support surface has at least one convexly curved portion aligned in a tire axial direction.

8. (New) The run-flat tire according to any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein the support member is separated from a tread of the pneumatic tire under normal driving conditions.

9. (New) The run-flat tire according to any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein the support surface is structurally adapted to support the pneumatic tire when the pneumatic tire is deflated.

10. (New) The run-flat tire according to any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein a rubber portion protrudes from the bead in a tire axial direction, a surface of the rubber portion being the stage.

11. (New) The run-flat tire according claim 10, wherein the rubber portion is harder than the bead.

12. (New) The tire/wheel assembly according to any one of claims 4 and 5, wherein the support surface has at least one convexly curved portion aligned in a tire axial direction.

13. (New) The tire/wheel assembly according to any one of claims 4 and 5, wherein the support member is separated from a tread of the pneumatic tire under normal driving conditions.

14. (New) The tire/wheel assembly according to any one of claims 4 and 5, wherein the support surface is structurally adapted to support the pneumatic tire when the pneumatic tire is deflated.

15. (New) The tire/wheel assembly according to any one of claims 4 and 5, wherein a rubber portion protrudes from the bead in a tire axial direction, a surface of the rubber portion being the stage.

16. (New) The tire/wheel assembly according claim 15, wherein the rubber portion is harder than the bead.